GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4692
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2003
ALZHEIMER`S DISEASE
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been done to assess the extent of Alzheimer`s Disease in the country;

(b) if so, the nodal agency responsible for the prevention, of Alzheimer`s disease in the country;

(c) whether the Government have not provided any assistance to hospitals to attend to this health problem; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (d): Based on the World Health report, the prevalence of Alzheimer`s disease is estimated to be 5% in males and 6% in females above the age of 60 years. Applying this to India`s population, it is estimated that there may be around 3.5 million people suffering from Alzheimer`s disease. However, this is based on extrapolation and not on actual survey. Alzheimer disease is a progressive degenerative condition with onset usually after the age of 65 years. The exact cause of the disease is not known. The treatment is aimed at relief of symptoms by medication such as anti-psychotics, tranquillisers and cholinergic stimulators as well as behavioural modification and family counseling on caring of such people. The treatment is provided in tertiary hospitals both in the Government and private sector.